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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/811,847	03/19/2001	Yoshio Ochiai	7217/64198	9246

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EXAMINER

ONUAKU, CHRISTOPHER O

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2621

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	01/11/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/811,847

Applicant(s)

OCHIAI ET AL.

Examiner

Christopher Onuaku

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 October 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 11 and 15 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10, 12-14 and 16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 March 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 10/20/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that Kikuchi fails to disclose that optical disc 10 can be the same as a semiconductor storage medium.

In response, examiner refers the applicant to col.34, lines 6-16 wherein Kikuchi discloses temporary storage 34 as comprised of a semiconductor memory. In col.48, lines 29 –35 discloses wherein hard disc 1018 in Fig.48 can be used as a temporary storage 34. If hard disc 1018 is having a storage area as large as several gigabytes, an area in this disc may be partitioned and may be used as virtual DVD-RAM (or DVD-RW or DVD-R) disc 10. Therefore, it is obvious that optical disc 10 can be used as temporary storage 34, and temporary storage 34 can be the same as a semiconductor storage 34, as discussed above.

It is pertinent to note that a semiconductor storage medium is a sheet-like semiconductor nonvolatile memory (see Iwamura et al (US 4,340,953), col.9, lines 1-4).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

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invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-10,12-14&16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kikuchi et al (US 6,553,180).

Regarding claim 1, Kikuchi et al disclose a digital information recording/playback system which has a function of supporting the user to create a visual menu that partially uses actual recorded contents (a still picture, a short movie, or the like), and an information recording medium used in the system, comprising:

a) a semiconductor storage medium configured to be mounted detachably to a main body so that the storage medium can be mounted to the main body when desired and removed from the main body when desired, the storage medium containing predetermined file data that have been electrically stored (see Fig.1; optical disc 10; col.7, lines 19-45; and temporary storage 34; col.34, line 6-16; memory 1010 or video memory 1012 of Fig.48 may be used as a temporary storage 34; col.48, line 25-28; and hard disc 1018 in Fig.48 can also be used as a temporary storage 34; col.48, lines 29-35; if hard disk 1018 is having a storage area as large as several gigabytes, an area in this disc may be partitioned and may be used as virtual DVD-RAM (or DVD-RW or DVD-R) disc 10; therefore, from the above discussions it would have been obvious that disc 10 can be used as a temporal storage 34 since disc 10 can be partitioned and a portion of the disc 10 used as a temporary storage device ; it is pertinent to note that disc 10 is detachable as discussed in col.7, lines 19-14);

b) expanding means mounted to the main body for applying a regeneration (reproduction) process to the file data and for reading the file data (see Fig.39, video decoder 64 of decoder 60; col.35, lines 6-25);

c) converting means mounted to the main body for converting the regenerated image animation file data to image data in accordance with a predetermined outputting system (see Fig.39; video digital-to-analog converter (V-DAC) 67; col.35, lines 6-30);

d) display means mounted to the main body for displaying the image data on a predetermined displaying region in accordance with the predetermined outputting system (see Fig.39; display 48; col.34, line 61 to col.35, line 67); and

e) control means for repeatedly regenerating the image data in predetermined units based upon the file data (see Fig.39, MPU 30; col.53, line 29 to col.54, line 61; and VOB 83 and col.15, line 50 to col.16, line 18).

Regarding claim 2, Kikuchi et al disclose wherein the semiconductor storage medium is a sheet-like semiconductor non-volatile memory (see Fig.1, optical disc 10; col.7, line 25 to col.8, line 44), it is pertinent to point out a semiconductor storage means can be sheet-like shaped .

Regarding claim 3, Kikuchi et al disclose wherein the storage medium stores a control program for controlling an operation of the main body in a manner capable of updating the control program with respect to the main body (see management data

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recorded in data recording area 28 of disc 10; col.9, lines 19-21; data management data is used for the recording and reproduction operations of video signal—col.36, line 14 to col.38, line 13; col.50, lines 39-47 and col.57, lines 28-43).

Regarding claim 4, Kikuchi et al disclose wherein the main body displays an operational condition on the displaying means as an operation condition image by executing the control program (see, for example, col.18, line 57 to col.19, line 13).

Regarding claim 5, Kikuchi et al disclose wherein the display of the operating condition image is performed by synthesizing predetermined character data with the image (see at least col.34, lines 61-65 and col.35, lines 31-37).

Regarding claim 6, Kikuchi et al disclose wherein the main body executes a control command not contained in the main body by performing the control program

Regarding claim 7, Kikuchi et al disclose setting means for setting an order in accordance with which a plurality of the image data are regenerated, wherein each of the plurality of the images are regenerated in accordance with the order (see col.11, lines 3-25; col.26, lines 14-56 and col.33, lines 46-53).

Regarding claim 8, Kikuchi et al disclose information regenerating unit further comprising timer means for setting a starting time and a terminating time for

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regenerating the image data, wherein the image data are regenerated in accordance with an optional time (see system time counter- STC 38 of Fig.39- col.34, line 66 to col.35, line 5 and col.36, lines 14-32).

Regarding claim 9, Kikuchi et al disclose information regenerating unit further comprising temporary storage means for temporarily storing the file data at a sector unit of storage of the storage medium, wherein the file data are read in real time mode from the storage medium to temporarily store the data in the temporary storage means, the image data being regenerated while reading the file data in the real time mode (see Fig.39&49; temporary storage 34/34A; col.37, lines 5-18; col.39, lines 33-45 and col.59, lines 33-43).

Regarding claim 10, Kikuchi et al disclose information regenerating unit further comprising:

a) a lousspeaker mounted on the main body or outside the main body for regenerating voice data (see Fig.48, speaker 8; col.48, lines 13-20);

b) the storage medium operable for storing electrically compressed voice file data (see Fig.39, disc 10; col.31, line 64 to col.32, line 3);

c) the expanding means operable for applying a regenerating process to the compressed voice file data and for reading the compressed voice data (see Fig.39, audio decoder 68; col.35, lines 6-25); and

d) the converting means operable for converting the regenerated voice data to voice data in accordance with a predetermined outputting system (see Fig.39; audio ADC 69; col.35, lines 6-25).

Regarding claim 12, Kikuchi et al disclose information regenerating unit further comprising a storage region for storing a plurality of identification codes of storage file data disposed on the file data, and storing means for storing a plurality of main body identification codes disposed on the control means, wherein the file data in the storage medium that are identified are read when one of the plurality of storage file data identification codes is identified by one of the plurality of main body identification codes, and the image data are regenerated (see, for example, identification numbers for VOBs; col.16, lines 12-18; and col.20, line 60 to col.21, line 6).

Regarding claim 13, Kikuchi et al disclose information regenerating unit further comprising wherein the main body identification code is rewritable (see Fig.1, wherein Kikuchi discloses the optical disc 10 is a rewritable recording medium, including col.9, lines 34-45; col.9, line 62 to col.10, line 2, and col.11, lines 33-39 and col.34, lines 41-48); furthermore, the main body identification codes, for example, VOB identification numbers, are stored in the management area of the optical disc 10 which is rewritable.

Regarding claim 14, Kikuchi et al disclose information regenerating unit further comprising wherein rewriting of the main body identification code is performed using the storage medium mounted on the main body (see Fig.1; optical disc 10; col.7, lines 38-44; and Fig.1, wherein Kikuchi discloses the optical disc 10 is a rewritable recording medium, including col.9, lines 34-45; col.9, line 62 to col.10, line 2, and col.11, lines 33-39 and col.34, lines 41-48); furthermore, the main body identification codes, for example, VOB identification numbers, are stored in the management area of the optical disc 10 which is rewritable.

Regarding claim 16, Kikuchi et al disclose information regeneration unit in which the file data is compressed animation (moving) file data (see col.7, lines 19-25).

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 11&15 are allowable over the prior art of record.
5. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Regarding claim 11, the invention relates to an information regenerating unit capable of regenerating file data which has been in files in a storage medium.

The closest reference Kikuchi et al (US 6,553,180) disclose a digital information recording/playback system which has a function of supporting the user to create a visual menu that partially uses actual recorded contents (a still picture, a short movie, or the like), and an information recording medium used in the system.

However, Kikuchi et al fail to explicitly disclose an information regenerating unit, where the information regenerating unit further comprises control means for repeatedly regenerating the image data in predetermined units based upon the compressed animation file data in which the compressed image file data stored in the plurality of the storage media are read alternately so that the image data are continuously regenerated.

Regarding claim 15, the invention relates to an information regenerating unit capable of regenerating file data which has been in files in a storage medium.

The closest reference Kikuchi et al (US 6,553,180) disclose a digital information recording/playback system which has a function of supporting the user to create a visual menu that partially uses actual recorded contents (a still picture, a short movie, or the like), and an information recording medium used in the system.

However, Kikuchi et al fail to explicitly disclose an information regenerating unit, where the information regenerating unit further comprises control means for repeatedly regenerating the image data in predetermined units based upon the compressed animation file data in which rewriting of the main body identification code is performed using a change-over switch with respect to the storing means for main body identification codes.

6. THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

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A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Conclusion

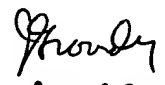
7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher Onuaku whose telephone number is 571-272-7379. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Groody can be reached on 571-272-7950. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


COO
1/2/07


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